

The background is a dark gradient transitioning from deep purple on the left to teal and green on the right. It is decorated with several stylized, multi-petaled flowers in various colors: orange, pink, blue, and green. Some flowers are sharp and vibrant, while others are blurred into soft bokeh circles. A thin, dark, swirling line is visible in the lower-left corner.

Speech acts

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your name



John L. Austin
(1911 - 1960)
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John R. Searle
(born 1932)
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Definition

- Speech act is an act that a speaker performs when making an utterance;
- Speech act is an intent utterance given in accordance with speech principles and rules
- Speech acts are a staple of everyday communicative life;

Speech act components

- Locutionary act

the act of 'saying something' in the full normal sense is the performance of locutionary act

He said to me: *Shoot her!*

- Illocutionary act

It is a complete speech act, made in a typical utterance, that consists of the delivery of the propositional content of the utterance, and a particular illocutionary force.

He advised/ ordered me to shoot her.

- Perlocutionary act (effect)

the consequence of an illocutionary act, some result

He has persuaded me to shoot her.

(according to John R. Austin)

John R. Searle's classification

- Directives
- Commissives
- Representatives
- Declaratives
- Expressives

Directives

Directive is a speech act that is to cause the hearer to take a particular action

1) *I need/ want that car.*

2) *Give me your pen.*

3) *Could you give me your pen, please?*

4) *May I have some soda? Is there any milk left?*

5) *This has to be done over. What about the renovation?*

Commissives

Commissive is a speech act that commits a speaker to some future action (promises, refuses)

e.g. *Maybe I can do that tomorrow.*

Don't worry, I'll be there.

Representatives

Representative is a speech act that commits a speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition

e.g. *I went to the Amish quilt exhibit.*

There are about twenty quilts on display.

Some are very old and some are new.

Declaratives

Declarative is a speech act that changes the reality in accord with the proposition of the declaration.

e.g. *Class dismissed (students get up and leave)*

I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Expressives

Expressive is a speech act that expresses on the speaker's attitudes and emotions towards the proposition.

e.g. *I am very dissapointed.*

What a great day!!!

Oh my, that's terrible.

Speech act functions

- 1) Exchange factual information
The plain departs at 7:10.
- 2) Exchange intellectual information
These arguments are correct.
- 3) Exchange emotional attitudes
I'm worried about my term papers.
- 4) Exchange moral attitudes
I appreciate your help.
- 5) Suasion
Hand in your assignments.
- 6) Socializing
Hi, Larry, how are you?

Conclusions

- Main features of speech acts are intentionality and purposefulness or commitment.
- Speech act is a component of the communicative act.

References

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